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FROM : AmEmbassy, BONN

DATE: July 25, 1963

SUBJECT: Dr. Helmut Allardt, New West German Ambassador in Madrid

REF :

Dr. Helmut Allardt, the Federal Republic's new Ambassador in Madrid (he presented his credentials to Franco on July 11), was until recently the head of the Economic Division of the Foreign Office with the rank of Ministerialdirektor (roughly equivalent to an Assistant Secretary in the Department). In this capacity, he was in frequent contact with the Embassy, especially with its Economic Section. Embassy officials, who dealt with Dr. Allardt, found him cooperative, readily accessible and frank in discussing problems of current interest, even those of a sensitive nature. He generally preferred to speak in private and without advisers. This was an advantage in some respects, but Embassy officers found that he was not always fully informed on some matters handled by his division.

In personality, Dr. Allardt is quiet, rather conservative in his tastes and very much the gentleman and old-school diplomat. He commands a fair amount of English, which he enjoys using, but his vocabulary is not always up to the subject under discussion.

Dr. Allardt's antecedents in the German diplomatic service go back to 1936 when he was appointed an attache in the Foreign Office at the age of 29 (he was born in Koenigsberg, East Prussia in 1907). Like many German diplomats he had been trained in law. His first foreign assignment was in Tehran from August, 1938 until early 1940. He was then transferred to Copenhagen and in 1941 became a Counselor at the German Embassy in Turkey where he remained until the end of the war. A report of that period states that he handled consular affairs in Ankara and "was considered a pleasant person, astute in his associations with people". In 1951 Dr. Allardt resumed his diplomatic career in the reborn Foreign Office handling economic and commercial questions for European and Near Eastern

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countries. In 1953, he made two trips to Cairo, the first to conclude a trade agreement, and the second to investigate British charges that German advisers and technicians employed by the Egyptian Government were jeopardizing British interests there. After the latter trip, Allardt reported negatively; a finding not accepted by the British Foreign Office.

Allardt's first ambassadorial assignment was in Djakarta from 1954 to 1958, where he did a competent, workmanlike job for his Government so far as is known. In a despatch to the German Foreign Office dated November 1957, Allardt recommended that a strengthening of economic ties with Indonesia be deferred until after "consolidation of the political situation" (Embassy Bonn's Despatch No. 1166 of January 8, 1958).

After returning to Bonn, Allardt was posted to Brussels as EEC Director for relations with overseas territories. Although respected by his colleagues, he resigned this post in June 1960 (Embassy telegram 2107 of June 15, 1961) after reportedly losing a dispute with French Commissioner Lamaignen on the issue of preference for associated territories in EEC financial policy. He then took up duties in the Economic Division in the Foreign Office. In this capacity, he headed a German delegation to Warsaw in June 1961 to negotiate a trade agreement with the Poles. Although the erection of the Berlin Wall precluded any success at that time, Allardt again began negotiations with the Poles in December 1962, culminating in the successful conclusion of a trade agreement in March 1963. Dr. Allardt undoubtedly deserves a large share of the credit for the outcome. He assumed his duties as Chief of the Economic Division after returning from his first mission to Warsaw.

On the basis of the Embassy's personal dealings with Dr. Allardt and what is known of his background, Madrid should find him a welcome addition to the diplomatic corps. Whether he has any well-defined views on the Spanish situation is not known, but his approach is likely to be that of a well-trained and objective professional diplomat. His reports should carry some weight in the Foreign Office in Bonn.

For the Charge d'Affaires ad interim:

*Coburn Kidd*  
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 Counselor of Embassy

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